

From: B. Kosnik
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 2:11am
Subject: against settlement as currently proposed

I am sending this as a concerned US citizen who works in the information technologies field. I am saddened that this promising lawsuit might end up doing so little.

The settlement will still allow Microsoft to extend and keep private all of its office application API, as well as office application file formats and intra-application communication protocols. Allowing this, in my opinion, is giving Microsoft consent to continue on as a monopolist in the desktop OS and desktop application space.

It is imperative that all Microsoft file formats be released publically, along with Microsoft-supplied validation suites to ensure format fidelity. These formats should be freely licensed to all, allowing even software that is not sold (ie free software) to make use of these formats for data interchange.

Note that this allows all kinds of information tools, free and non-free, but explicitly demands a level and competitive playing field.

Thanks,
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